

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03518 221022Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OPR-02 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00 MCT-01 SSM-03

A-01 IO-13 OMB-01 PER-01 /102 W

-----033338 221034Z /20

P R 220910Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4645

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE 271

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

COMSIXTHFLT

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3518

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI LE

SUBJ: LEBANESE SITUATION JULY 15-21

REF: BEIRUT 3388 (DTG 150955Z JUL 77)

1. SUMMARY: THIS WEEK SHELLING CONTINUED ON DAILY BASIS IN SOUTH, AND FIGHTING BROKE OUT AGAIN BETWEEN SAIQA AND REJECTIO-NIST COMMANDOS IN BEIRUT REFUGEE CAMP. NEW TRIPARTITE COMMITTEE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 03518 221022Z

REPRESENTING LEBANON, SYRIA, AND PLO HELD FIRST MEETING AT CHTAURA JULY 21. LOCAL PRESS CARRIED STORIES SAYING THAT NEW UNDERSTANDING WAS REACHED BETWEEN LEBANON AND PLO COVERING SOUTH AND REFUGEE CAMPS. FONMIN BOUTROS MET WITH PRESIDENT ASAD IN DAMASCUS. CAMILLE CHAMOUN SAID HE WOULD MEET WITH YASSIR ARAFAT ONLY IF 250,000 PALESTINIANS LEFT LEBANON. GOVERNMENT RECONVENED PARLIAMENT FOR EXTRAORDINARY SESSION. TWO BEIRUT PUBLICATIONS

WERE SUSPENDED FOR VIOLATING CENSORSHIP LAW. END SUMMARY.

2. THE SOUTH.

SHELLING CONTINUED ON DAILY BASIS IN SOUTH BETWEEN CHRISTIANS AND PALESTINIANS. THERE WERE AGAIN MINOR PROBES, BUT NO MAJOR GROUND ACTIONS.

3. RENEWED FIGHTING IN SABRA.

ON JULY 16 AND 17, SAIQA AND FATAH COMMANDOS AGAIN EXCHANGED GUN-FIRE WITH REJECTIONISTS IN AND AROUND SABRA REFUGEE CAMP IN SOUTH-WESTERN BEIRUT (SEE BEIRUT 3425). ALTHOUGH SYRIANS DID NOT BECOME ENGAGED DIRECTLY ON GROUND, THEY PROVIDED MORTAR AND ARTILLERY SUPPORT TO SAIQA. ACCORDING TO LEBANESE POLICE OFFICIAL, CASUALTIES INCLUDED 14 SAIQA, EIGHT FATAH AND 12 REJECTIONIST COMMANDOS KILLED, AS WELL AS 125 PEOPLE WOUNDED, MOSTLY CIVILIANS.

4. NEW TRIPARTITE COMMITTEE.

LEBANON, SYRIA, AND THE PLO HAVE SET UP NEW TRIPARTITE COMMITTEE WHICH HELD ITS FIRST MEETING AT CHTAURA JULY 21. ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE, COMMITTEE IS "CHARGED WITH ESTABLISHING DETAILED PROGRAM FOR APPLICATION OF CAIRO ACCORD." PARTICIPANTS AT OPENING SESSION INCLUDED LEBANESE ARMY COMMANDER VICTOR KHOURY, ASF COMMANDER SAMI KHATIB, HIGH RANKING FATAH OFFICIAL ABU IYAD, AND SYRIAN ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF HIKMAT SHIHABI.

5. POSSIBLE UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN LEBANESE AND PALESTINIANS.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 03518 221022Z

A. FOLLOWING MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT SARKIS AND HIGH-RANKING FATAH OFFICIAL ABU IYAD JULY 19, LOCAL PRESS CARRIED STORIES SAYING THAT "NEW UNDERSTANDING" HAD BEEN REACHED BETWEEN LEBANESE AND PALESTINIANS COVERING SOUTH AND REFUGEE CAMPS. AN NAHAR SAID THIS UNDERSTANDING PROVIDED FOR:

- IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE IN THE SOUTH, AND STATIONING OF LEBANESE TROOPS IN "SENSITIVE AREAS" TO ESTABLISH BUFFER ZONE BETWEEN COMBATANTS;
- PALESTINIAN WITHDRAWAL TO "AREAS ALLOWED UNDER CAIRO ACCORD:"
- ARQUB, AND DEIR AL ASHAYER-YANTA LINE "UNDER SUPERVISION OF SYRIAN FORCES;"
- FORMATION OF JOINT LEBANESE-SYRIAN FORCE TO "PROTECT" PALESTINIAN CAMPS IN SOUTH LEBANON;
- WITHDRAWAL OF ALL ARMED PALESTINIANS IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS OF BEIRUT TO REFUGEE CAMPS.

B. ACCORDING TO LE REVEIL, HOWEVER, DIFFERENCES REMAIN OVER:

- (A) DEFINITION OF LIMITS OF PALESTINIAN CAMPS IN BEIRUT; AND
- (B) RIGHT OF PALESTINIANS TO RETAIN HEAVY WEAPONS.

6. BOUTROS IN DAMASCUS.

FOREIGN MINISTER FUAD BOUTROS MET WITH PRESIDENT ASAD AND OTHER SYRIAN OFFICIALS IN DAMASCUS JULY 16-17. THIS WAS LAST LEG OF

ARAB TOUR WHICH ALSO TOOK HIM TO OTHER THREE MEMBER-STATES OF QUADRIpartite COMMITTEE: SAUDI ARABIA, EGYPT, AND KUWAIT. UPON RETURN TO BEIRUT, BOUTROS TOLD REPORTERS ONLY THAT HE HAD DELIVERED MESSAGE FROM ASAD TO SARKIS. PRESS SPECULATED THAT MESSAGE CONTAINED SYRIAN AGREEMENT TO ABOVE "NEW UNDERSTANDING" BETWEEN PALESTINIANS AND LEBANESE.

7. CHAMOUN'S CONDITIONS FOR MEETING ARAFAT.

ON JULY 18 RIGHTIST AL BAYRAQ QUOTED NATIONAL LIBERAL PARTY LEADER CAMILLE CHAMOUN AS SAYING THAT HE WOULD BE WILLING TO MEET ONLY ONE MEMBER OF THE PALESTINIAN LEADERSHIP--YASSIR ARAFAT. CHAMOUN REPORTEDLY ADDED THAT HE WOULD MEET ARAFAT ONLY IF THREE CONDITIONS WERE FIRST MET: (A) PALESTINIAN EVACUATION OF DAMOUR, (B) PALESTINIAN EVACUATION OF SOUTHERN VILLAGES; AND (C) DEPARTURE OF

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BEIRUT 03518 221022Z

250,000 PALESTINIANS FROM LEBANON.

8. EXTRAORDINARY PARLIAMENTARY SESSION.

GOVERNMENT RECONVENED PARLIAMENT FOR EXTRAORDINARY SESSION WHICH BEGAN JULY 21 AND WILL CONTINUE UNTIL AUGUST 4. ON FIRST DAY, PRIME MINISTER AL HOSS REQUESTED SPECIAL POWERS TO LEGISLATE BY DECREE UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 1977, IN FIELDS OF SECURITY, DEFENSE, JUSTICE, DEVELOPMENT AND RECONSTRUCTION. PARLIAMENT LAST MET DECEMBER 23-24, 1976, WHEN IT GRANTED PREVIOUS SPECIAL POWERS THAT EXPIRED JUNE 30, 1977 (SEE BEIRUT 3388).

9. PRESS ACTIVITIES.

ON JULY 18 GOVERNMENT SUSPENDED PUBLICATION OF NATIONAL LIBERAL PARTY (NLP) DAILY AL AHRAR FOR PUBLISHING UNAUTHORIZED INTERVIEW OF NLP LEADER DORY CHAMOUN. LEADING ARABIC WEEKLY AL HAWADESS WAS SUSPENDED FOR WEEK OF JULY 18-24 FOR PUBLISHING AN ARTICLE ATTACKING PRESS CENSORSHIP, AND OWNER IS CONSIDERING MOVING PUBLICATION TO CAIRO. TWO OTHER PUBLICATIONS HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED BRIEFLY SINCE CENSORSHIP WAS IMPOSED--PHALANGE AL AMAL AND RIGHTIST LE REVEIL. ALSO, PRO-IRAQI AL MUHARRIR ANNOUNCED JULY 19 THAT IT WOULD CEASE PUBLICATION JULY 20 "UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE."

PARKER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROVINCE, POLITICAL SITUATION, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BEIRUT03518
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770261-0168
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770731/aaaababa.tel
Line Count: 158
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4ec3ea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BEIRUT 3388
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1783524
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANESE SITUATION JULY 15-21
TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, MOPS, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4ec3ea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009